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**(WO/1999/040773) SELF-CONTAINED FLEXIBLE AERODYNAMIC CUTTING  
ELEMENT WITH MATCHING HEAD**

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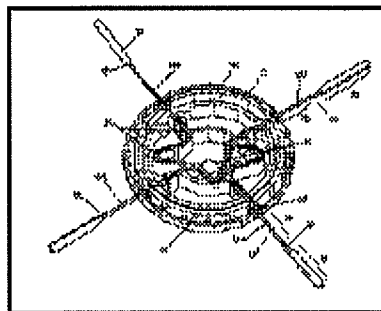
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Title: SELF-CONTAINED FLEXIBLE AERODYNAMIC CUTTING ELEMENT WITH MATCHING HEAD

**Abstract:** A vegetation cutter, a cutting string for use with a vegetation cutter, and a method of cutting vegetation, are provided which utilize a novel cutting string (13) arrangement in which a twist (19) and living hinge (19A) are provided in a cutting string having a drag co-efficient of less than 1.0, typically with a first long axis and a second short axis, the second axis less than 85 % of the first axis. The twist (19) is provided between the free end (79) of the string (13) and where the string is mounted to the head (76), or where two twists are provided in the string (13), the string is mounted to the head at a central portion between the twists (19). The string may be mounted to the head by grooves or slots (80) and/or clamping mechanisms, or a wide variety of other components. The cutting string may have a wide variety of cross-sectional configurations (both symmetrical, such as elliptical, or non-symmetrical, such as substantially tear drop). The twist is typically between about 30-150°, most desirably about 90°.



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